



GLOW

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

June 2026



From the Desk of Pastor Mark

³⁴ ***“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.***
³⁵ ***For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,***
³⁶ ***and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.***
³⁷ ***“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. – Matthew 10:34-39 (NRSVUE)***

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As most of you have probably figured out about me by now, I’m a bit of a love and peace and pacifist kind of guy. I find that there is beauty and wonder in all of God’s children and I can’t for the life of me understand how and why so many choose to focus on what differentiates us, to the point that things like violence and war are not only encouraged but celebrated. About a year ago I got my first (and only, so far) tattoo, placed on my inner left forearm of a specific symbol that spoke to me, that being the universal symbol for unconditional love. While I don’t have the capacity to love unconditionally, only God does, this tattoo serves as a personal reminder for me to nonetheless strive to see all people as God sees them: people who are loved for who they are, not for what I think about them or think that they should be. Am I a bit naïve? Probably. Do my personal views make me very popular? Probably not. Do I care? Nope.

And the reason why I can be so comfortable with seeing the world through this lens is because of what Jesus Christ has said and accomplished for us. As we navigate through the Gospel of Matthew this summer, we’re going to encounter the accompanying text, a statement that comes across as rather shocking and out of character for Jesus. On the surface it almost seems as if he is promoting violence (“I have not come to bring peace, but a sword”). I stress “almost.”

(Continued on page 2)

Ruth’s Pantry

Needs

- Canned Peas
- Canned Carrots
- Shampoo, Body Wash
- Bar Soap, **Cereal**
- Hamburger Helper
- Pasta Noodles
- Cooking Oil
- Sugar, **Cereal**
- Salt and Pepper
- Cereal, Cereal**
- Paper & Plastic Bags

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This is one of those passages that could be (and have been) absconded, isolated, taken out of context, and twisted to promote and justify violence in the name of Christ. And that's incredibly sad because what Jesus is actually referring to here is not to go to war with those who don't think like you do or commit themselves in the same manner that you have, but rather is a command to cut off the reliance on the world when it interferes with your reliance on God's promises.

This scripture is a part of Jesus' longer narrative of what he is instructing his disciples before he sends them out for the first time. What he's telling them is that going out and proclaiming God's love is not going to be all roses and sunshine. Some people won't like the message that they bring. In fact, a lot of people won't like it. It will be decisive because it completely counters previously established thoughts and beliefs. But, nonetheless, they are not to waver in their proclamation because the message of God's love is a message meant to be shared with and received by the whole world.

The same holds true today. What is proclaimed and shared within the confines of our Sunday morning worship experience is meant to be, and is hopefully, fulfilling and empowering to us as people of faith. But we all know that when we carry that same message out into the world, the reception of it is not always welcoming. A message that contradicts what people already believe, or want to believe, will usually be ignored, but there are also those moments when the responses to it will be hostile and cutting, as if the message is being cut off by a sword.

That's what Jesus is warning his disciples here, but we, like they did, proclaim nonetheless, because that is what we have been called to do. Now, does this make us holier-than-thou? Do my pacifist leanings mean that I am operating in some kind of higher plane? Absolutely not. I am a sinner. In fact, I am an experienced sinner. I'm convinced that nobody sins better than I do. Chief of sinners,

though I be. But despite that, I am who God has called me to be, and so I will be this person, and be this person with joy and unapologetic weaknesses and vulnerabilities. Because, despite how bad I am and can be, God still loves me in ways that I can't even begin to fathom and calls me to proclaim that same love to the whole world, so I'm going to continue to do just that. I hope all of you do as well.

Happy summer, everyone!!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



More Than the Room

Do not just see a quiet face,
Or judge the slowness of the pace.
There is a vibrant spirit here,
With stories spanning many a year.

Behind the eyes, so calm and deep,
Are memories the soul will keep.
A life of laughter, work, and tears,
The triumphs of the passing years.

Though seasons change and rooms grow small,
Their love and wisdom touch us all.
For they are roots that built our way,
And bring a guiding light today.

So let us honor, let us care,
And learn all that they have to share.
For in their grace and gentle smile,
We learn to cherish every while.

Editor's Note: This poem was shared with me for the newsletter to remind us how precious are our moments with our older relatives, neighbors, acquaintances, and church members. I'm reminded of an elderly gentleman in our congregation—years ago—who spent EVERY Sunday afternoon visiting shut-ins and other neighbors or members who were unable to attend church services. We could do better

LWR School Kits

Last year I was taken by surprise at how early the school supplies were available in the stores. So I missed some good sales. Here are the items we put in the school kits:

- 4 spiral-bound 70-page notebooks
- 5 unsharpened pencils
- 5 ball point stick pens with caps
- pencil sharpener
- 2-inch pink eraser
- ruler with both inches and metric
- scissors with rounded tips
- one box of 12 crayons



June

The 80+ birthday gang



- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 1 | Mary Thompson
237 Cook Ave., Apt. 109
Oconto, WI 54153 | |
| 4 | Arloene Carlson
8438 Henry Street
Larsen, WI 54947 | 17 |
| 5 | Yvonne Sprenger
7565 Richter Lane
Larsen, WI 54947 | 22 |
| 15 | Herb Zeinert
8604 South Loop Road
Larsen, WI 54947 | 25 |
| | | 17 |
| | | 22 |
| | | 25 |

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Music: Todd Repp, Jessica McGinnis, Carol Reichert

Custodian — Gene Walter

Power Point Master — Patti Nelson

Love flows from Grace

May you have the power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ!

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m.	2	3 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word	4	5	6
7 Pantry Challenge 9:30 a.m. Worship	8 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	9	10 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word	11 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle	12	13
14 9:30 a.m. Worship in the Pines*	15 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	16	17	18 8:36 a.m. Property Team	19	20
21 9:30 a.m. Worship with Praise Band	22 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	23	24 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word with Holy Communion	25	26	27
28 9:30 a.m. Worship In the Pines*	29 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	30				

* All outdoor services are weather permitting and may be moved inside without advanced notice.

Keeping in Touch

General email address:

graceofwinchester@gmail.com

Grace Web site: glcw.org

Grace: [Facebook.com/graceofwinchester](https://www.facebook.com/graceofwinchester)

Ruth's Pantry: ruthspantrygrace@gmail.com

Ruth's Pantry: [Facebook.com/glcw.ruths.pantry](https://www.facebook.com/glcw.ruths.pantry)

The email Prayer Chain.

June	
Ushers	Greeters
June 7 — Team 4	Team 5
June 14 — Team 5	Team 6
June 21 — Team 6	Team 1
June 28 — Team 1	Team 2

Ruth's Pantry "Collection Challenge"

The Ruth's Pantry Collection Challenge Sunday (to help stock the shelves) is coming up. When you come to Church on Sunday, **June 7**, please bring cereal and pancake syrup.

"Early" Notice: The first Sunday challenge in **July** requests are in. You are encouraged to bring cat-sup, mustard, and relish.

Thank You

Dear Rev. Laatsch and Grace Lutheran Staff: We are so grateful for all of the work and support you all provided on the days before and of our dad's funeral. We truly appreciate all of you. Much love. —Glen Mathison's Girls

I want to thank the sewing circle for taking your time to make a quilt for me. I would also like to thank you for putting a part of my grandpa on it. It means a lot to me. —Madison McNamee

Thank you so much to the sewing group for the beautiful quilt. I'm so grateful that you took the time to make this for me. I appreciate your hard work. I will cherish this quilt forever. —Alli Wisnefske

Thank you for making my quilt. Every stitch and pattern reminds me of my faith journey throughout my life . . . the seasons of joy, struggle, growth, and grace that have shaped me into who I am. It feels like more than a quilt—it feels like a reflection of the love, strength, and guidance I've experienced along the way. Your time and creativity made something truly meaningful to me, and I will treasure it for years to come.

—Zach Korth



Mae Harrison, Tava Younger, and Jackson Thomas were confirmed on May 17. Congratulations to the three of them!

GALAXY
Launching Kids on a Mission of God's Love

DISCOVER GOD'S INCREDIBLE LOVE— AND SHARE IT WITH OTHERS!

- BIBLE ADVENTURES
- TEAM-BUILDING GAMES
- COOL BIBLE SONGS
- OUTREACH PROJECTS

MEET GIZMO!

JULY 22 & 23 TWO DAYS OF OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD **FUN!**

8:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

SIGN UP TODAY!
 WE NEED A MINIMUM OF **12 KIDS** TO LAUNCH!

QUESTIONS OR TO SIGN UP, CONTACT ALISSA AT **(920) 277-7619**

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

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Grace Historical Notes

Before the present organ pipes were installed on the right side of the altar in the early 1960s, the pulpit hung on that wall from the 1903 construction.

The 1967 addition, which added more classrooms with other educational and social facilities, cost \$135,000.

In 1973, we received the first Annual Reports without any list of names or envelope numbers listing contributions given.

The nave was redecorated in 1974, and new pews were installed.

In 1978, the New Lutheran book of Worship arrived.

For many years, the pastoral staff consisted of a pastor and a student intern.

On August 16, 1981, two pastors were serving the congregation for the first time in the history of the church.

In 1983, the south entrance was reconstructed and an elevator installed.

The contemporary Sunday worship service was begun in 1989.

A new asphalt shingled roof was put on over the Sanctuary in 2002, replacing a 60-year-old slate tile roof.

—Facts are assembled and submitted by David Christianson, with the help of several people who went through historical materials and pulled out data of note.